

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are all the claims pending in the application.

I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

A. Claims 11-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In particular, the Examiner has indicated that in order for claims 11-18 to be considered statutory, that the claims must be either (1) tied to a “particular apparatus” or (2) transform underlying subject matter to a different state or thing.

By this amendment, Applicants note that claim 11 has been amended such that this claim is now tied to a “particular apparatus”, thereby addressing the Examiner’s comments in the Office Action. In particular, Applicants note that claim 11 has been amended so as indicate that the receiving step is performed using a receiving unit. It is noted that a similar change has also been made to claim 19.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11, as well as dependent claims 12-18, are directed to statutory subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants kindly request that the above-noted rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

B. Claim 19 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants have amended claim 19 along the lines as suggested by the Examiner in the Office Action in order to overcome this rejection.

In particular, Applicants note that claim 19 has been amended so as to be directed to a computer-readable storage medium. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the above-noted rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-10 are allowed.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenichi NORIDOMI et al.

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